

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USOECD

PASS HEW FOR COMMISSIONER BOYER, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER
LEESTMA; LABOR FOR DUS SAMUELS, DUS EDES, A/S GREEN,
ADUS BLACKMAN, AVERY AND METCALF

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SEDU, OECD
SUBJECT: MARCH 21 COUNCIL MEETING: PROPOSED MEETING OF
THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL

REF: A) PARIS 8846; B) C(78)27

1. ALL DELS BUT ONE WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT PROPOSAL
CONTAINED IN REF B TO HOLD EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING
IN OCTOBER, 1978. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF GREEK SUGGESTION
THAT COUNCIL AND NATIONAL CAPITALS CONSIDER DESIRABILITY/
FEASIBILITY OF A JOINT EDUCATION AND LABOR MINISTERS
CONFERENCE (OR SOME VARIATION THEREOF), COUNCIL MEMBERS,
IN ABSENCE OF INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS QUESTION, POSTPONED
DECISION ON ORIGINAL PROPOSAL (INCLUDING DETAIL OF HOW
MANY MEETING DAYS) UNTIL NEXT COUNCIL MEETING, APRIL 5.

2. AFTER AROUSING PROTRACTED DEBATE, GREEK DEL SAID
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HIS WAS NOT A FORMAL PROPOSAL BUT A "PERSONAL" POINT OF
VIEW. HIS RATIONALE WAS THAT ISSUE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
EDUCATION AND WORKING LIFE IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
BETWEEN EDUCATION AND LABOR MINISTRIES.
DANISH REP TOOK LEAD IN REFUTING GREEK DEL WITH, INTER-
ALIA, THE FOLLOWING ARGUMENTS:
(A) ULTIMATE LOGIC OF GREEK SUGGESTION COULD INVOLVE

HALF THE CABINETS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES AND
(B) A JOINT MEETING WOULD REQUIRE CONSIDERABLY MORE
PREPARATION AND LENGTHEN CONFERENCE BEYOND TWO AND A
HALF DAYS. CANADIAN DEL POINTED OUT THAT, IN ANY CASE,
CONSIDERING IMPORTANCE AND IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED
THEMES (EDUCATION POLICIES IN CONTEXT OF SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC TRENDS, AND RELATIONS BETWEEN EDUCATION AND
WORKING LIFE), CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN APPROPRIATE MINIS-
TRIES IS ESSENTIAL AND WOULD OBVIOUSLY OCCUR. THE U.S.
SUPPORTED THIS VIEW. THE CANADIAN CONTINUED THAT
EDUCATION MINISTERS HAVE ALREADY AGREED THAT THE IMPOR-
TANCE OF THE ISSUES AND CONFERENCE FORMAT WARRANTS
EDUCATION MINISTERIAL PARTICIPATION. HE CONCLUDED THAT
A CHANGED FORMAT AND NEW PAPERS WOULD UNDULY DELAY
MEETING; AN UNWELCOME PROSPECT CONSIDERING AMOUNT OF
ADVANCE SCHEDULING MINISTERS REQUIRE. FRANCE, DENMARK,
JAPAN AND SWEDEN SUPPORTED THE CANADIAN VIEW. (IN
EFFORT TO SATISFY GREEK SUGGESTION, SEC GEN SAID MEMBER
GOVERNMENTS ARE FREE TO INCLUDE WHOMEVER THEY WISH ON
DELEGATIONS.)

3. CONCLUSION

COUNCIL AGREED TO DEFER DECISION UNTIL NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING. SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE TRANSCRIPT OF MINUTES
AND A PAPER OUTLINING PROS AND CONS OF ALTERNATIVES TO
ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. BOTH DOCUMENTS WILL SERVE AS BASIS
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FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES AND FORMAT OF
PROPOSED MINISTERIAL MEETING.

4. ACTION REQUESTED:

ALTHOUGH GREEK SUGGESTION WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL PROPOSAL,
SOME DISCUSSION ON IT WILL TAKE PLACE AT NEXT COUNCIL.
THEREFORE, MISSION WILL NEED GUIDANCE/TALKING POINTS
ON CONCEPT OF INCLUDING LABOR AND OTHER MINISTERS.
WE WILL PROVIDE SECRETARIAT PAPER WHEN AVAILABLE.
SALZMAN

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